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"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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FIGHT WILL BE CLOSE.

New York and Illinois Are Both Debatable States This Fall in Experts' Opinion.

Personal Liberty, as the Battle Cry of the Masses, Changes Things.

People Are More Interested in Their Individual Rights than in Fight on Trusts.

Look Out for Squalls, Is the Signal Flashed to the Grand Old Party.

It Has Some Heavy Loads to Carry and Has Lost Some Fights Before.

The personal liberty issue is likely to smash the Republican party in this campaign both in New York and Illinois.

We are coming to this conclusion more and more as the campaign wears on.

Walter Wellman, one of the most accurate of newspaper observers, writes as follows to the Record-Herald on the subject:

With the election only five weeks away, no man can say with confidence what the Empire State is going to do, either as to the Presidency or the Governorship. The best that can be said at this writing is that the chances favor Taft carrying the state by a relatively small plurality and the defeat of Governor Hughes by a slender margin. But there are so many elements of uncertainty that he would, indeed, be a rash man who at this time ventures any positive prediction one way or the other.

It is easy for the politicians to make claims. For instance, Chairman Conners, of the Democratic state committee declares Bryan will carry the state by 100,000. Chairman Woodruff of the Republican committee says Taft will win by from 50,000 to 100,000. The simple truth is that both men are guessing. They do not know. The campaign in this state has only just begun. Neither state organization has really done any work beyond the merest preliminaries. Neither has taken a poll of the voters. Neither has the full and accurate information upon which to base an intelligent estimate. All the political managers can do at this time is just what we independent, non-party observers do, and that is to judge by the indications, by the trend of public sentiment. When it comes to this, the average politician is not much of a success. He sees things through colored glasses.

There is a common belief throughout the country that New York is quite purely Republican. Probably most Republicans will be shocked to hear that there is any real doubt about the state. They, of course, realize that if New York should happen to go to Bryan the meaning of it is that Bryan wins the Presidency. This dispatch is not intended to alarm such Republicans. It is not intended to be sensational. I am not predicting that Bryan is going to carry New York. In fact, I think his chances are not so good as those of Taft. But having made extensive inquiries as to the state of public feeling here, I deem it my duty to point out that there is nothing sure about the verdict of New York. Doubt does exist. The well-nigh decisive thirty-nine electoral votes of this state are yet to be fought for. The odds are against Bryan, but there are elements which threaten unpleasant surprises for those who have settled down into the comfortable belief that the state is safe and sure.

The country-wide belief that New York is certainly for Taft springs, of course, from the fact that in the last three presidential elections the state has been overwhelmingly Republican.

This is a natural view and a proper one. It is a fact which must be taken into account. But only in connection with still more important considerations—the relative conditions in past campaigns and now. The Democrats carried New York in 1892 for Grover Cleveland. No one was surprised that they lost it with Bryan in 1896, when the party was hopelessly divided on the money question. The surprise was that Bryan got as many votes as he did under the conditions which then prevailed. Nor was it any cause for wonderment that Bryan failed to carry the state in 1900, when he ran against the popular McKinley soon after a successful foreign tour conducted by the McKinley administration. With all the handicaps against him, the surprise again was that Bryan polled as many votes as he did, indicative of the vitality of the Democratic party in this state. It would have been a miracle if he had won that year. In 1904 Judge Parker really had no chance whatever against Roosevelt, and no one expected him to do much better than Bryan had done in 1900. As a matter of fact, he did not do so well. Roosevelt's plurality over Parker being more than 30,000 greater than McKinley's over Bryan.

In all three campaigns—1896, 1900, 1904—the conditions were dead against the Democrats. Therefore, any opinion of the present struggle based upon the result in those years may be very misleading. The really vital question is as to the conditions affecting the vote. If the conditions favor the Republicans, they, of course, can easily hold all or a part of their preponderance of the past campaigns. If the conditions favor the Democrats, they may be able to reduce or to wipe out the Republican pluralities of the past. It is impossible to study the conditions now existing here without coming to the conclusion that their net effect is to help the Democrats. In this dispatch no effort is made to measure the effect of the various factors now working for Bryan. There is no pretense of figuring out how deep each influence may cut in reducing the Republican majority. It is only desired to point out what some of these influences are, that as the campaign goes on careful readers and observers may the more intelligently judge what the final outcome is likely to be.

Working against Mr. Bryan is the persistent belief upon the part of many voters that in some way he is not a safe man to sit in the presidential chair; that he is too much given to experimentation; that he is too radical; that he has not outgrown his devotion to free silver; that if an emergency of a financial character were to arise while he was in the White House he could not be depended upon to use all of his power for the preservation of confidence and of the gold standard. Many believe Mr. Bryan too much addicted to loans, such as the initiative and referendum, government ownership of railways, etc. His past radicalism as to the Supreme Court, and a fear that if he were elected he might try to fill that great tribunal with men of his own stamp, affects many voters. So far as purely administrative work goes, Mr. Bryan is not regarded as a good business man nor as a good judge of men. In short, the old distrust of Bryan persists, but in a greatly modified form. It is no longer violent or vindictive.

If we compare the Bryan of 1900 and 1900 with the Bryan of to-day, in the opinions of the people of New York, he has gained tremendously. Evidence of this is found in the well-known indifference of banking and commercial men to the outcome of the present election. Those who are Republicans are as a rule against Bryan, but not savagely. They no longer look upon his possible election as a forerunner of national disaster. They are not spending money to defeat him. Many business men who in the Bryan campaigns of the past have worked energetically for the Republican ticket will this year stay at home on election day or vote for Bryan himself. In this feature of the situation the certainty that the United States Senate is to be Republican for at least four years to come plays an important part.

Delving deeper into the state of mind of the people of New York State, we find there a sort of general protest. It is a protest against certain tendencies of the government, both federal and state. It is a protest which may or may not lead to revolution, but it must be admitted that it is at least of the chemical composition from which revolutions usually evolve. The protest as to national affairs involves, in greater or less degree, most of the elements of society.

Business men complain because the policy of the federal government has led to too much interference with business. All sorts of men complain because the policy of Governor Hughes has led to too much interference with private habits, or at least to a threat of such interference. Labor men complain that the party in power is the party of trusts and of banking and of high finance; that it is responsible for the panic of last year; that it is responsible for the high cost of living and the shortage of employment.

These generalizations are based upon well-nigh innumerable specific instances—upon conversations with all classes of men, which have brought forth the voice of complaint and protest. The sum total of this attitude of the public mind—I am speaking of New York and the surrounding community, not of the West or any other part of the country—may be summed up in this one terse sentence—the desire for a change. Nothing else could better express that which to me seems the dominant note of the public mind in this region. It is a contagious and perhaps unreasoning and yet very marked and possibly decisive discontent with that

which is, that is going to find expression at the ballot box.

As to the first of these protests, it is undoubtedly true that Mr. Taft has inherited President Roosevelt's weakness and not his strength. That is to say, many men who dislike Mr. Roosevelt and his methods are prepared to visit their prejudice upon Mr. Roosevelt's choice for the presidency, while not so many of the men who admire Mr. Roosevelt are prepared to accept Mr. Taft because he has the President's O. K. It is impossible to transfer a personal popularity, but it is easy to transmit personal antipathies.

I am convinced that if Mr. Roosevelt were himself running for President this year he would easily carry New York, because of his great hold upon the masses of the people near the base of the pyramid of society. At the same time he would be heavily cut by the smaller number of voters who dwell in the apex of that pyramid. Mr. Taft's danger lies not in the apex, where his pre-eminent fitness and high qualities have full recognition, but lower down where the positive, the picturesque, the peculiar, the imagination-compelling public character always has the most friends. Mr. Taft, though through no fault of his own, has not "caught" that element of society. He suffers by contrast. And for this reason the activity of the President in the campaign probably does Mr. Taft more harm than good in New York, though in the West the reports are that it is right the other way. All through this section the complaint is general that there is too much Roosevelt and not enough Taft in the Republican leadership of the hour. There is a common opinion that Mr. Taft should say more and Mr. Roosevelt less.

What seems to be a powerful protest on the part of the people of the metropolis and surrounding region against too much interference with personal liberty by the state administration, under the leadership of Governor Hughes, is a chapter by itself and will form the chief topic of another dispatch. This "personal liberty" objection to Hughes is, of course, a two-edged sword. It may elect him instead of defeating him, though it must be admitted the outlook just now is the other way. There is no good reason why the prejudice against Hughes should be permitted to enter the presidential campaign and work harm to Taft. But in politics, as in everything else, we have to take human nature as we find it, and the human nature of it is that many thousands, in their eagerness to hit Hughes, will also hit Taft.

All of these things together do not necessarily mean that Taft is going to lose the electoral vote of New York. Until we can more accurately measure the extent to which this protest is running, we are forced to accept the general opinion that New York is probably Republican on the presidency. But they do indicate that there are certain tendencies of the public mind which the shrewd and masterful Republican campaign manager would try his best to sound to the depths and counteract by every means in his power.

The colored vote is against Taft. That is one cloud on the title.

Personal liberty will cut some ice in this election.

The election this fall is the sort of election that is never over until the ballots are counted.

According to Dr. Evans' last bulletin the meat inspectors condemned 87,470 pounds of foodstuffs, of which 74,021 pounds were found in the loop district. They also reported the finding of 191 markets and groceries in an unsanitary condition and, on reinspection of 100 previously reported insanitary, that 12 had failed to correct conditions. Law suits have been ordered against those failing to comply with the department's orders. The inspectors made 82 inspections of places where ice is handled and found 20 in an insanitary condition. They reinspected 19 previously reported bad and found that 3 had failed to comply with the written orders of the department.

The Republicans who are looking for a landslide may wake up to find it on top of them.

The Republicans are suffering from over-confidence and may not get over it.

Chicago's traction system is far superior to that of New York, according to Alderman Milton J. Foreman, who returned to the city Tuesday after a week's sojourn in the eastern metropolis. "If our people had to put up with such street car service as they have in New York I think they would have more grounds for complaint," said Mr. Foreman. "The courts have knocked out the consolidation of the companies and the transfer privileges have been withdrawn. The people are paying two fares where they formerly paid but one." A new bridge for Lake street—the first double-decked bascule structure which Chicago will have, is to be urged by Commissioner Hanberg, who will ask the council for money to complete plans.

The colored vote is against Taft. That is one cloud on the title.

The Republicans are too confident this fall to have a sure thing.



JOHN M. SMYTH,
Progressive Business Man and Public-Spirited Citizen.

MAYOR BUSSE'S PLANS.

They Contemplate Some Great Things for the City of Chicago in Near Future.

Improvements Are in Sight Which Will Advance Conditions a Hundred Years.

Better Water and Plenty of It and a Grand Boulevard Link Among the Number.

A New Charter that Will Be Broad in All of Its Provisions Coming.

With Power to Increase Bonded Debt Many Improvements Can Be Made Without Taxation.

Mayor Busse has many great plans for the improvement of Chicago which he will commence to battle for at once. Among them are the following:

Electrification of the suburban railways. Investigations are now in progress by city engineers and a sensational report has been prepared by the health department, showing the disastrous effects on the Chicago atmosphere caused by smoke and gases from railway engines.

Subways and Tunnels: A downtown subway system is being planned for which maps and drawings are being drawn. When the preliminary arrangements are completed the street railway companies will reconstruct and lower the old river tunnels.

Bond issue: Comptroller Wilson wants power from the legislature to increase the bonded indebtedness. He has secured the co-operation of many Illinois mayors and the bill will come before the next legislature.

New City Hall: The old building is half demolished. Bids for the new structure will be advertised for this month.

New City Charter: Ald. Foreman, chairman of the old charter convention, wants to revive the movement for the charter.

Street Improvements: The expected \$500,000 revenue from the wheel tax licenses will be used in improving the streets. M. J. Doherty, superintendent of streets, has gangs of men now repairing the asphalt roads in many parts of the city. Downtown street crossings are to be paved with creosote blocks. As fast as the railway companies construct their new tracks the pavements will be relaid.

Boulevard Link: Eight plans for a connecting link on the lake front between the north and south sides are before the board of local improvements. City engineers will pass on the plans at a public hearing Oct. 13.

Pure Water: Dr. W. A. Evans, head of the city health department, has secured the co-operation of officials in Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois in his efforts to secure pure drinking water from Lake Michigan. Tests of the water have been made in the state laboratories and it is proposed entirely to stop the practice of emptying sewage into the lake.

Bureau of Publicity: Ald. Milton J. Foreman wants a new bureau for "information, publicity, statistics and library work." It would absorb the present bureau of statistics. The ordinance was introduced before the council and ordered published.

Track Elevation: Mayor Busse will insist on elevation of the tracks of the Chicago & Oak Park elevated road in Austin. A mandatory ordinance will be presented to the council ordering the company to elevate the tracks.

Walter J. Raymer, superintendent of track elevation, is preparing a report on all the work completed. When this is out of the way he will start on plans for other lines. Among the tracks to be elevated are those of the Evanston division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy road and the Bloomington road line. Many of the present railway's subways will be enlarged. Elevation of the tracks at Grand Crossing is to be pushed.

Thomas G. Philfeldt, city bridge engineer, hopes to start work on bridges over Thirty-fifth street and the Chicago river and at Ninety-second street over the Calumet river. He will also ask authority to begin on plans for a new bridge at Lake street, the old one having been outgrown.

Street Numbering: Supt. Riley of the map department has completed tools for the town of Lake, showing all buildings renumbered according to the new system. He will ask to be allowed to change the house and store numbers to correspond with the books at once.

If you have any suggestions to make about the new charter you can send them in to any of the following named persons, who make up the charter convention:

Milton J. Foreman, R. R. McCormick, Joseph Badonoch, John P. McGorty, William H. Baker, M. L. McKinley, Walter E. Beebe, Chas. E. Merriam, Albert W. Beilfuss, W. R. Michals, Frank L. Bennett, Theodore Oshne, E. P. Brossenau, Jos. A. O'Donnell, Wm. M. Brown, John F. Owens, Richard E. Burke, G. W. Paulin, Thomas Carey, H. E. Pendarvis, Chester W. Church, Louis F. Post, B. F. Clettenberg, John Powers, George E. Cole, Edward J. Rainey, Daniel F. Crilly, Walter J. Raymer, William E. Dever, Alex. H. Revell, George W. Dixon, Lewis Hinaker, Thomas J. Dixon, Emil W. Ritter, A. A. Eckhart, Raymond Robbins, John F. Eckhart, Lessing Rosenthal, Henry F. Eldmann, C. O. Setness, F. E. Erickson, D. E. Shanahan, Walter L. Fisher, John G. Shedd, F. H. Gansberger, Frank L. Shepard, Andrew J. Graham, John F. Smulski, L. T. Greenacre, Bernard W. Snow, John Guerin, Bernard E. Sunny, Joseph F. Haas, George B. Swift, C. H. Harrison, Graham Taylor, John W. Hill, Geo. J. Thompson, Frank G. Hoynes, Chas. J. Vopicka, Thos. M. Hunter, Edwin K. Walker, W. Clyde Jones, Charles Werner, Jas. M. Kittleman, R. A. White, Bryan Lathrop, D. B. Wilkins, James J. Linehan, John P. Wilson, Carl Lundberg, Edward C. Young, T. C. MacMillan, Michael Zimmer, Chas. E. Merriam.

A big celebration is being planned jointly by the South and West Park Boards for next week, when the connecting link between the two boulevard systems under their control will be thrown open to the public. A section of Marshall boulevard, about 400 feet in length, west of Western avenue and north of the drainage canal, is to connect the two systems. With this link completed it will be possible to start on Michigan avenue and make the trip around the city to the lower end of Lincoln Park entirely on the city's boulevards and through the parks. The newly opened stretch will be under the control of the West Park Board.

Why doesn't Uncle Sam go after the Beef Trust? Why were not all the facts about this awful trust given to the public? The secret of the famous chapter five of the Garfield report on the beef trust is revealed. Chapter